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Preface

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Preface

This special issue contains papers selected from the fifth meeting of the international conference on Computational Methods in Systems Biology held in Edinburgh in September 2007. These represent the best scientific work in the area and give a rich characterization of the application of the languages and methods of theoretical computer science to the challenges and complexities of biological modelling and analysis.

In choosing the best papers for the conference and for this special issue the editors received wonderful support from the programme committee who delivered thorough and insightful reviews of all papers in a very short time scale. We thank all of the members of the programme committee and their sub-referees for their industriousness. We thank the authors also for responding swiftly to the comments of the referees and revising their papers to address these comments earnestly.

The conference received financial support this year from the e-Science Institute, the Centre for Systems Biology in Edinburgh, and Microsoft Research, Cambridge. In addition, the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council supported the conference and contributed to the student bursaries which we distributed to PhD students to allow them to attend the conference free of charge.

We were very fortunate this year to have two outstanding invited speakers in Dan Gillespie and Mark Girolami. Their presentations set a very high standard and helped to make the conference a memorable, hugely enjoyable and enlightening experience.

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